

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 IO-11 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DPW-01 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4845

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARK'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

1. PRESIDENT PARK IN HIS TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE LISTED ROK'S TRIALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1975 AND CALLED ON PEOPLE FOR CONTINUED "SELFLESS COOPERATION" IN BUILDING NATIONAL STRENGTH DURING 1976. EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT WAS ON SELF-RELIANCE.

2. PARK POINTED OUT THAT ROK HAD MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE SINCE FALL OF INDOCHINA AND RESULTING INCREASED NORTH KOREAN THREAT. PRESIDENT DESCRIBED 1975 VISITS OF "CHOCHONGNYON" TO ROK AS "EPOCHAL STRIDES" IN HUMANITARIAN AREA WHICH WERE MADE DESPITE BREAK-DOWN IN SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT IN FACE OF WORLD-WIDE DEPRESSION, ROK ECONOMY GREW MORE THAN 7 PERCENT.

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3. DURING 1976 PRESIDENT SAID PEOPLE MUST CONTINUE

TO WORK FOR PEACE ON KOREAN PENINSULA, FOR ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR PEACEFUL UNIFICATION. HE SAID MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS TO ATTAIN FRAMEWORK OF SELF-HELP AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH GREATER PRODUCTION AND SAVINGS. IN THIS CONNECTION 1976 IS IMPORTANT YEAR IN WHICH 3RD FIVE YEAR PLAN ENDS AND PREPARATIONS FOR 4TH BEGIN. PARK CALLED FOR ALL TO AVOID WASTE AND INCREASE EFFICIENCY. HE REMARKED THAT NORTH KOREAN "DELUSION" OF INVASION CAN BE DESTROYED BY DEVELOPING NATIONAL STRENGTH.

4. IN FOREIGN POLICY AREA PARK SAID ROK MUST CONTINUE EFFORTS TO PERSUADE NORTH TO NORMALIZE DIALOGUE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROK POLICY OF BEGINNING WITH PROBLEMS CAPABLE OF SOLUTION GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WELCOME "CHOCHONGNYON" VISITS.

5. PRESIDENT PARK CALLED ON PEOPLE TO MAKE FOURTH YEAR OF "YUSHIN" A YEAR OF "PRIDE AND PROGRESS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY", AS HIS NEW YEAR'S DAY CALLIGRAPHY READS: "INCREASED PRODUCTION, FRUGALITY, SELF-HELP AND SELF-RELIANCE".

6. COMMENT: PARK CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC FOCUS ON PRESENT FRAME OF MIND, PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR COMING YEAR AT ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE NOW ANTICIPATED TO BE HELD BETWEEN JANUARY 10 - 15.
SNEIDER

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